



US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Wilmington District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: October 4, 2006
Comment Deadline: November 10, 2006
Corps Action ID #: 2004-344-067

All interested parties are hereby advised that the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an amendment to the request for Department of the Army authorization to nourish approximately 7.25 miles of shoreline. The modification will include an additional 3.85 miles of beachfront to protect residential homes and town infrastructures located along the south section of the Town limits. Specific plans and location information are described below. This Public Notice and all plans are available on the Wilmington District Web Site at www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands

Applicant: North Topsail Beach
Attn: Mr. Brad Smith (Town Manager)
2008 Loggerhead Court
North Topsail Beach, North Carolina 28460

AGENT (if applicable): Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc.
Attn: Ms. Erin Hague
2481 N.W. Boca Raton Boulevard
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Authority

The Corps will evaluate this project pursuant to applicable procedures to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. This notice acts as an amendment to our May 24, 2005 Public Notice.

Location

The project site is located at 34-491833 and 77-419735 on North Topsail Beach and will encompass approximately 3.85 miles, or 20,325 linear feet, of ocean shoreline along the southern section of the beach, in Onslow County, North Carolina.

Existing Site Conditions

The ocean shoreline of Town of North Topsail Beach encompasses approximately 11.1 miles along the northern end of Topsail Island. The majority of the central and northern sections of the beach are located within the Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS), which prohibits the expenditure of Federal funds pursuant to the Coastal Barrier

Resources Act of 1982 (CBRA-82) and the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 (CBIA-90). The Town is currently pursuing and evaluating a non-federal shoreline protection plan to nourish these two sections, which are approximately 7.25 miles in length, as described in the May 24, 2005 Public Notice. The southern section, which encompasses 3.85 miles, is outside the CBRS, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently developing a Federal shoreline protection plan for this section of North Topsail Beach.

Applicant's Stated Purpose

In response to the funding delay of the Federal shoreline protection plan, the Town has opted to include the 3.85 miles of shoreline within the 7.25 miles of the non-federal shoreline protection project. This amendment to the original plan will encompass the entire 11.1 miles of shoreline in North Topsail Beach. The stated purpose is to temporarily address a severe erosion problem that is threatening development and town infrastructure within the 3.85 mile stretch, and to expedite the placement of material as an emergency measure due to the delay in funding to complete the federal plan formulation process. Unlike the 7.25 mile sections, the nourishment of the 3.85 mile southern section will be a single event and will not be included in the overall management plan.

Project Description

The formulation of the federal storm damage reduction project for the southern 3.85 miles of North Topsail Beach by the Corps of Engineers is based on the condition of the shoreline that existed in 2002. Corps of Engineers guidance for the design of the emergency beach fill in the South Section indicated that the volume of material should be based on: (1) restoring the 2002 shoreline condition and (2) providing advanced nourishment sufficient to maintain the 2002 shoreline condition until the federal storm damage reduction project is implemented (estimated timeframe 6 to 8 years). The volume of material necessary to achieve the project objective will range between 500,000 and 1,000,000 cubic yards, and will be dredged from the original borrow area. The material would be distributed along the 3.85 mile shoreline in the form of a horizontal beach berm at elevation +7.0 NGVD (National Geodetic Vertical Datum). The berm would begin near the seaward toe of the existing dune system and would extend 75 to 150 feet seaward depending on the final design volume and foreshore slopes that the fill assumes during construction.

The scope of activities for the proposed emergency beach fill project includes: (a) additional vibracores in the borrow area, (b) side scan sonar surveys of the ocean bottom just offshore of the South Section, (c) in-water investigations of potential near shore hard bottom resources identified by the side scan sonar survey, and (d) beach profile surveys. The boundaries of the borrow area will take into consideration the location and extent of hard bottom resources identified by side scan sonar and seismic surveys and in-water observations conducted in connection with the planning and design of the northern 7.25 mile beach nourishment project. A magnetometer survey will be conducted in the borrow area. Any historically significant archaeological artifacts located by the magnetometer

surveys and verified through field investigations will be avoided. A final compatibility analysis of the material in the borrow area with the native beach material will be performed following the refinement of the boundaries of the borrow area.

This notice is to additionally inform interested parties of our issued October 10, 2006 amended Notice of Intent to include the 3.85 mile south section in the preparation of the project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which can be found on the Federal Register website, www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a050519c.html (that is an underscore “_” after su). Once you have connected with the website, go to Engineers Corps to locate subject matter.

As disclosed in the Notice of Intent, any written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, must be submitted to this office, Attention: Mickey T. Sugg, until 4:15 p.m., November 10, 2006. Question can be directed to Mr. Sugg at (910) 251-4811, Wilmington Regulatory Field Office.